

To: Alan Stine[astine@olytech.com]; Alec Hansen[mict@mt.net]; Bill Mercer[wwmercer@hollandhart.com]; Brian Sugden[brian.sugden@plumcreek.com]; Chris Brick[chris@clarkfork.org]; Craig Woolard[cwoolard@bozeman.net]; Dave Aune[daune@greatwesteng.com]; Dave Galt[dave@montanapetroleum.org]; Doug Parker[DParker@hydrometrics.com]; Mathieus, George[gemathieus@mt.gov]; Gerald Mueller[gmueller@montana.com]; Glenn Oppel[goppel@montanarealtors.org]; Habeck, Bob[BHabeck@mt.gov]; Haley Beaudry[haleyb@bresnan.net]; Jay Bodner[jay@mtbeef.org]; Blend, Jeff[jblend@mt.gov]; Jeff Tiberi[jtiberi@macdnet.org]; jchambers@mt.gov[jchambers@mt.gov]; Jim Jensen[jjensen@meic.org]; John Wilson[jwilson@cityofwhitefish.org]; John Youngberg[johny@mfbf.org]; Julia Altemus[julia@montanaforests.com]; Mouch, Allison[AMouch@mt.gov]; Kyla Wiens[kwiens@meic.org]; Mark Lambrecht[marklambrecht@mt.net]; Mark Simonich[msimonich@helenahar.net]; Michael Perrodin[michael.perrodin@bnsf.com]; Mike Mullaney[mike.mullaney@holcim.com]; Suplee, Mike[msuplee@mt.gov]; North, John[jnorth@mt.gov]; Ryan Swinney[ryan@bruceswinney.com]; Scott Murphy[smurphy@m-m.net]; Shari Johnson (sajengineering@centurylink.net)[sajengineering@centurylink.net]; Skubinna, Paul[PSkubinna@mt.gov]; Laidlaw, Tina[Laidlaw.Tina@epa.gov]; tteegarden@mt.gov[teegarden@mt.gov]; Tom Hopgood[thopgood@montanaming.org]; Reid, Tom[toreid@mt.gov]; Urban, Eric[EUrban@mt.gov]
From: Greeley, Carrie
Sent: Thur 2/20/2014 11:00:57 PM
Subject: Numeric Nutrient Standards Public Comment Period

Dear Nutrient Work Group Member:

As you are probably aware, the Board of Environmental Review (Board) is proposing rulemaking to set numeric standards for nitrogen and phosphorus concentrations in surface waters. At the same time, the Department of Environmental Quality (Department) is proposing rulemaking for variances which define a process by which the numeric standards may be met over time. These variances are intended to reduce the economic burden on Montana citizens as compared to immediate compliance with the standards.

The Montana Legislature divided authority over the different rulemakings between the Board and Department, but intended that the rulemakings proceed simultaneously. As such, the Department will hold a public hearing on the proposed variance rule on March 24, 2014, in Room 111 of the Metcalf Building, 1520 E. Sixth Ave., Helena. The Department hearing will begin at 10:00 a.m. The Board will hold a hearing on the proposed nitrogen and phosphorus standards at 2:00 p.m. on the same day at the same location. An informal question and answer session on both rule packages will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. on the same day at the same location. The comment period for each rulemaking runs until April 1, 2014.

The two rule proposals, along with Department Circular DEQ-12A (pertaining to nutrient standards) and Circular DEQ-12B (pertaining to variances), can be found on the Department's rulemaking webpage at: <http://deq.mt.gov/dir/legal/hearing.mcp>. Information on submitting comments is found in each notice. Please note that the persons designated to receive the comments are different. Comments on the variance rulemaking must be submitted at the first hearing or sent to Carrie Greeley; if provided by E-mail, please use deqwqpadm@mt.gov. Comments on the standards rulemaking must be submitted at the second hearing, or sent to Elois Johnson; if provided by E-mail, please use ejohnson@mt.gov.

On behalf of the department, we wish to express our gratitude for the time and effort that you, as

a member of the Nutrient Work Group, expended in the processes leading up to rulemaking. The collaboration between the department and members like you, undertaken over the past five years or more, has led to a workable implementation process for these important water quality standards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "GEORGE MATHIEUS". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

George Mathieus

Administrator, Planning, Prevention and Assistance Division